



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040**

December 31, 2009

Via e-mail

Braam Oversight Panel  
John Landsverk, Chair  
Jeanine Long  
Jan McCarthy  
Jess McDonald  
Dorothy Roberts  
c/o Carrie Whitaker  
Box 354900  
4101 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98105-6299

**RE: FY09 Outcomes Data Report and Race Report**

Dear Braam Oversight Panel Members:

We are submitting the Children's Administration's final FY09 Outcomes Data Report and Outcomes by Race Report. Pursuant to the Revised Implementation Plan, these reports are due to the Panel on January 1, 2010.

The Outcomes Data Report indicates that where we had met the benchmarks for FY08, we continued to meet those benchmarks in FY09. The report also indicates that we met the statewide benchmark for eight outcomes, although for one outcome we did not meet the regional variation requirement. Our performance improved from FY08 regarding ISSP updates, for which we were found out of compliance in FY08, but the data for FY09 indicates that we met the benchmark. For six additional outcomes we did not meet the benchmarks, but are within 10 percentage points of them. For 14 outcomes, we are greater than 10 percentage points from the benchmarks.

As we have previously discussed in meetings and conference calls, administrative data has been converted from CAMIS to FamLink. Additionally, some data is available only since FamLink went live in February 2009. In some cases, data was not recorded in FamLink until social workers were provided additional direction and training. We have tried to identify the issues these changes caused in the data matrix we provided to you in mid-October, and have updated twice since then.

Unfortunately, there are two outcomes for which reliable data is not available for measuring performance in FY09. Those are: 1) shared planning meetings for youths six months before they exit foster care at 18 years old (III.F. Services to Adolescents G2 O3); and 2) CHET shared planning meetings within 60 days of placement (III.B. Mental Health G1 O3).

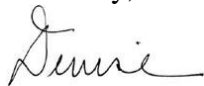
There are also two outcomes for which data is not currently available. For one of these outcomes – thoroughness of investigations into allegations of abuse or neglect of foster children by a caregiver (III.D. Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements G2 O2) – data will be provided by our case review process which is not yet complete. For the other outcome – founded reports of child abuse or neglect committed by a foster parent or facility staff member (III.D. Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements G2 O1) – the data will come from the results of the federal Child and Family Services Review, Round 2. Data for both of these outcomes will be available in Spring 2010.

As you are aware, we are actively working on improving the reliability of the administrative data for FY10. We continue to provide training for staff on those data elements that rely on accurate and timely entry to make sure that administrative data necessary for both compliance monitoring and to ensure the ongoing quality of our work is properly entered in the future.

In addition, while we are working on improving the use of FamLink, we will continue to use alternative means such as hand counts on some key outcomes to evaluate and improve the quality of the administrative data in FamLink. The results of hand counts will be compared to the related FamLink information to identify areas where improvements in data entry or performance are needed.

We look forward to working with you to continue to improve child welfare practice in those areas in which we have fallen short of the benchmarks.

Sincerely,



Denise Revels Robinson, MSW  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration

Carrie Hoon  
Assistant Attorney General  
Washington State Attorney General's Office

cc: Plaintiffs' counsel